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CRASPEDACUSTA SOWERBII IN MARYLAND

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On July 2, 1944 Dr. William R. Van Dersal called to the writer's attention the presence of fresh-water jellyfish in a channel of the Potomac River. Several specimens were captured and, although no suitable preservative was at hand, they remained in a sufficiently stable condition to permit identification. Dr. Waldo L. Schmitt of the United States National Museum identified the specimens as *Craspedacusta sowerbii*.

The finding of *Craspedacusta* constitutes a new record of animal life for the property of the Washington Biologists' Field Club, and possibly for Maryland. The location is slightly more than a mile above the town of Cabin John, Montgomery County, Maryland, in the channel between the mainland and Plummers Island. At the time that the specimens were taken the channel was connected with the river only at the downstream end. There was little apparent water movement in the channel.

Schmitt (*American Naturalist*, LXXIII, pp. 83-89, January-February 1939) reports the jelly fish from the District of Columbia and from nearby localities in Virginia, but does not list Maryland among the states in which it has been found.

In correspondence Dr. Schmitt suggested to the writer a report on his observation, hence, it seems probable that this is the first actual reported occurrence in Maryland. Bennett (*American Naturalist*, LXVI, 287-288, July-August, 1932) cites Schmitt's record from the Potomac River, and says, "the hydroid of *Craspedacusta* has been found in four different states, and the madusa in ten states, the District of Columbia, and the Canal Zone." Only 8 states, however, can be identified in his table. Maryland is not listed. Dexter, Surrarer, and Davis (*Ohio Jour. Sci.* XLIX, 235-241, Nov. 1949) list Maryland as a place of record. Dr. Dexter (communication April 6, 1950) believes the Schmitt record from Great Falls may have been interpreted as the Maryland record. Whatever the case, *Craspedacusta* seems to occur from time to time in the vicinity of Washington, D. C. particularly in the Potomac and reservoirs filled from it.

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